

What is claimed is:

1 1. An apparatus for determining a degree of charge-up induced on a wafer
2 by plasma comprising:

3 an electron beam generator that generates a beam of primary electrons and that
4 repeatedly scans a predetermined region of a surface of the wafer with the beam of
5 primary electrons;

6 a detector, separated from the surface of the wafer by a distance, that collects
7 secondary electrons that are generated by reaction between the primary electron beam
8 and the surface of the wafer and that are emitted from of the surface of the wafer; and

9 a determination unit that determines the degree of charge-up induced on the
10 surface of the wafer by the plasma, based on a change in an amount of secondary
11 electrons collected by the detector.

1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the electron beam generator repeatedly
2 scans the predetermined region of the surface of the wafer with the primary electron
3 beam in a form of a pulse and sequentially counts a number of scans.

1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the determination unit provides a
2 sample graph showing the change in the amount of secondary electrons collected by
3 the detector with respect to a number of scans of primary electrons as a graph of
4 brightness proportionate to the amount of secondary electrons and determines the
5 degree of charge-up by comparing a waveform of the sample graph to a waveform of a
6 reference graph.

1 4. A method of determining the degree of charge-up induced on a wafer by
2 plasma comprising;

3 scanning a predetermined region of a surface of the wafer repeatedly with a
4 primary electron beam;

5 collecting secondary electrons that are generated by a reaction between the
6 primary electron beam and the surface of the wafer and that are emitted from the
7 surface of the wafer; and

8 determining the degree of charge-up induced at the surface of the wafer by the
9 plasma, based on a change in a amount of collected secondary electrons.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said scanning with the primary electron
2 beam is repeated in a form of a pulse and a number of scans is sequentially counted.

1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein said determining the degree of charge-up
2 comprises:

3 providing a sample graph which shows the change in the amount of collected
4 secondary electrons with respect to a number of scans of primary electrons;

5 providing a reference graph which shows a change in an amount of secondary
6 electrons detected in a standard state, where charge-up induced by primary electrons is
7 removed, with respect to a number of scans of primary electrons; and

8 determining the degree of charge-up by comparing a waveform of the sample
9 graph to a waveform of the reference graph.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said determining the degree of charge-up
2 comprises comparing a number of scans corresponding to a maximum peak point of the
3 sample graph to a number of scans corresponding to a maximum peak point of the
4 reference graph and quantizing the degree of charge-up based on a degree to which
5 the number of scans of the maximum peak point of the sample graph is larger than the
6 number of scans of the maximum peak point of the reference graph.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein said determining the degree of charge-up
2 comprises comparing a maximum peak value of the sample graph with a maximum
3 peak value of the reference graph and quantizing the degree of charge-up based on a
4 degree to which the maximum peak value of the sample graph is smaller than the
5 maximum peak value of the reference graph.

1 9. A method of determining whether a conductive layer of a wafer is exposed
2 through a contact hole that is formed in an overlying insulating layer by a plasma
3 process, comprising:

4 repeatedly scanning an inside of the contact hole with a beam of primary
5 electrons;

6 collecting secondary electrons that are generated by a reaction between the
7 primary electron beam and an inside surface of the contact hole and that are emitted
8 from the contact hole; and

9 determining whether a surface of the conductive layer is exposed through the
10 contact hole in the insulating layer pattern based on a change in an amount of collected
11 secondary electrons.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the conductive layer is a gate electrode
2 having a gate insulating layer thereunder.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein said repeatedly scanning comprises
2 sequentially repeating transmission of the primary electron beam in a form of a pulse
3 and counting a number of scans.

1 12. The method of claim 9, wherein said determining comprises:

2 providing a sample graph which shows the change in the amount of collected
3 secondary electrons with respect to a number of scans of primary electrons;

4 providing a reference graph which shows a change in the amount of secondary
5 electrons detected in a standard state where the conductive layer is exposed with
6 respect to a number of scans of primary electrons; and

7 determining whether the conductive layer is exposed by comparing a waveform
8 of the sample graph to a waveform of the reference graph.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said of determining whether the
2 conductive layer is exposed by comparing comprises:

3 designating the conductive layer as exposed when the waveform of the sample
4 graph overlaps the waveform of the reference graph; and

5 designating the conductive layer as not exposed when the waveform of the
6 sample graph is separated from the waveform of the reference graph.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein said determining whether the conductive
2 layer is exposed by comparing comprises designating the conductive layer as not
3 exposed when the waveform of the sample graph is separated from the waveform of
4 the reference graph in an upward direction when the number of scans of the primary
5 electron beam is no more than 200.

1 15. A method of determining a degree of degradation of a gate insulating
2 layer that is formed under a material layer of a wafer, after processing of the wafer with
3 a plasma, comprising:

4 repeatedly scanning a predetermined region of the material layer with a beam of
5 primary electrons;

6 collecting secondary electrons that are generated by a reaction between the
7 beam of primary electrons and a surface of the material layer and that are emitted from
8 the material layer; and

9 determining the degree of degradation of the gate insulating layer due to the
10 plasma, based on a change in an amount of collected secondary electrons.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein said repeatedly scanning comprises
2 sequentially repeating transmission of the beam of primary electrons in a form of a
 pulse and counting a number of scans.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein said determining the degree of
2 degradation of the gate insulating layer comprises:

3 providing a sample graph which shows the change in the amount of collected
4 secondary electrons with respect to a number of scans of primary electrons;

5 providing a reference graph which shows a change in the amount of secondary
6 electrons detected in a standard state where the gate insulating layer is not degraded,
7 with respect to a number of scans of primary electrons; and

8 determining the degree of degradation of the gate insulating layer by comparing
9 a waveform of the reference graph to a waveform of the sample graph.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein said determining the degree of
2 degradation comprises comparing a number of scans corresponding to a maximum
3 peak point of the sample graph with a number of scans corresponding to a maximum
4 peak point of the reference graph and quantizing the degree of degradation of the gate
5 insulating layer based on a degree to which the number of scans of the maximum peak
6 point of the sample graph is larger than the number of scans of the maximum peak
7 point of the reference graph.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein said determining the degree of
2 degradation comprises quantizing a degree to which a maximum peak value of the
3 sample graph is smaller than a maximum peak value of the reference graph by
4 comparing maximum peak values of the sample graph and the reference graph.

1 20. The method of claim 17, wherein said determining the degree of
2 degradation comprises quantizing a degree to which a number of scans of the
3 reference graph is smaller than a number of scans of the reference graph by comparing
4 the number of scans where a peak value of the sample graph is reduced to 0 to a
5 number of scans where a peak value of the reference graph is reduced to 0.